



# ADYLS OF ELDORADO BY CHARLES KEELER



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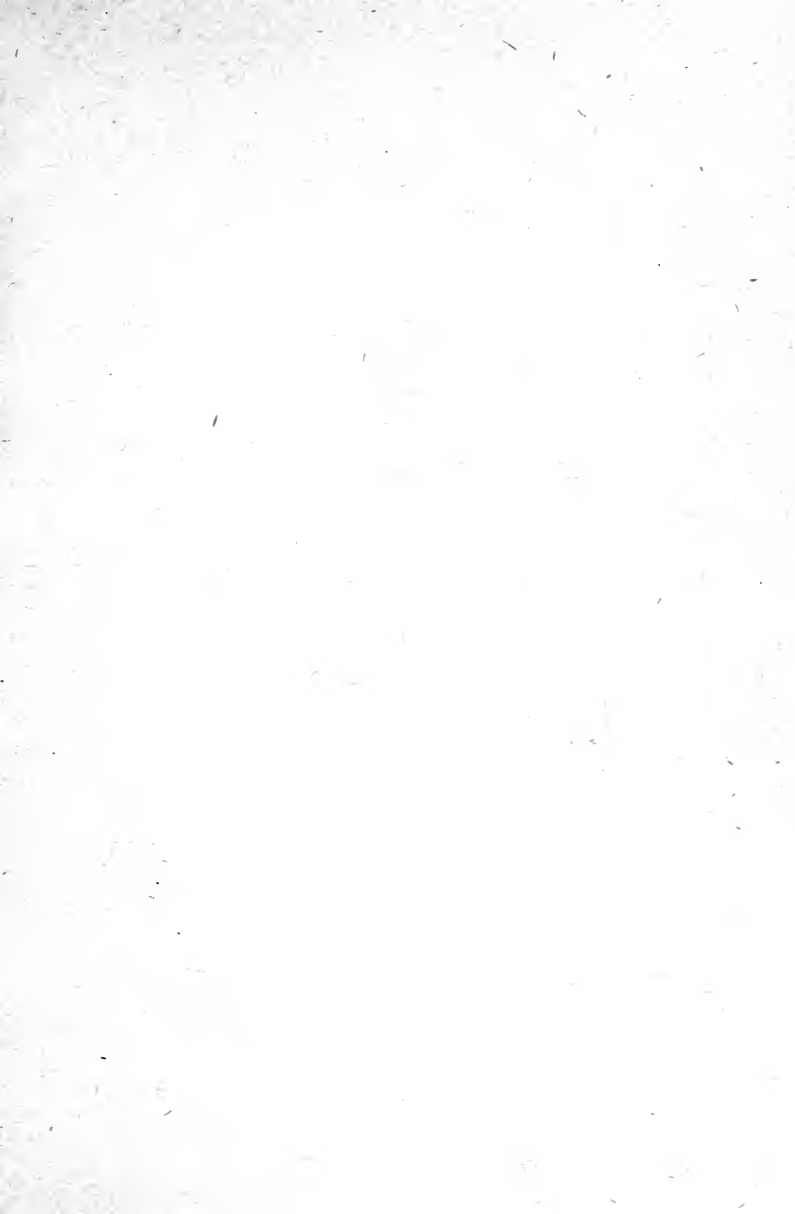
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**I** DYLS OF EL DORADO.  
BY CHARLES KEELER.



**A. M. ROBERTSON**  
San Francisco  
MCM

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By CHARLES KEELER

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Decorated with designs  
from the California Wild Flowers  
By LOUISE KEELER

PRINTED AT THE SHOP OF THE STANLEY-TAYLOR  
COMPANY, SAN FRANCISCO, IN THE YEAR MCM.



TO LOUISE

*There is a land of golden dreams afar,  
An El Dorado in the realms of song,  
And thou, my love, the portal canst unbar  
That blinds my vision of its radiant throng.*

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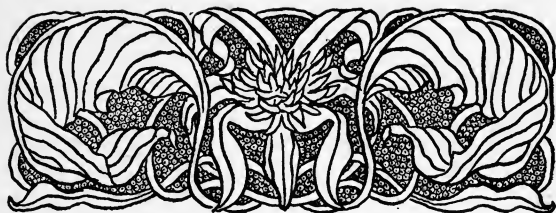
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IDYLS OF EL DORADO





## THE DREAMER AND THE DOER

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*—St. John.

Back of every mighty action stands the planner with  
his plan,—

First the dreamer, then the doer; first the Maker, then  
the man.

Shall we lower rate achievements of the brain than of  
the hand?

All we do is of the spirit if we rightly understand.

When the voice of Science tells us how through ages  
man has grown,

How the earth is still in making, how the past is all  
our own,

Shall we therefore count it lightly that the world was  
first a word,

Spoken in a void of silence, by the startled atoms  
heard?

For the world is still unfolding what the primal Master  
planned,  
Through eternity completing one sublimely thought  
command.  
And the dreamer *is* the doer if he dreameth aught  
aright,  
For his thought shall grow to action and his word  
shall be the light.





## ODE TO THE PACIFIC

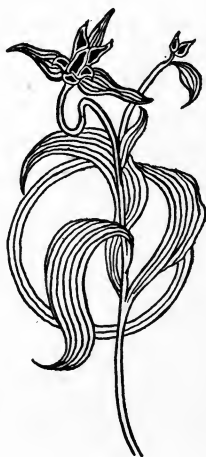
Ocean of oceans, mother of all seas,  
Blue wilderness of passion and of peace,  
Hoarse nursling of rude storms—thy wild increase—  
O'er far leagues shelterless, o'er placid leas  
Augustly swaying with majestic grace  
All lesser monarchs of the watery race,  
In thy vast breast are pent all nations' destinies!

Here shall the drama of the world to be  
Find theater to fit its mighty play;  
The leaguered hosts are storming round Cathay—  
Saxon and Cossac strive for empery,  
But still in foam thy heedless tide is tossed,  
For though all nations be with ruin crossed  
Still shall thy royal trumpets echo full and free.

From cape of storms beneath the cross of night  
To that north sea where rove the Arctic flocs,  
Thy wind in unimpeded passion blows,  
Thy waves unbridled onward urge their flight;  
But 'neath the turmoil all is calm and still;  
Thy mystic depths of silence scarcely thrill  
Though nations battle on thy tide for wrong or right.

Thy realm is highway to the East and West,  
And here the fleets of Christendom shall ride,  
Bearing their burdens o'er thy bounding tide,

By storms high tossed, by lulling waves caressed ;  
But thou shalt claim fond fealty of all  
And rouse the nations with thy stirring call,  
O mighty ocean, with thy proudly heaving breast !



TO A REDWOOD TREE

Praise be to thee,  
O time-wrought monument !  
Praise be to thee,  
O sky-supporting pillar !  
The stars that shine above thee,  
The earth that dreams below thee,  
The mountains that have borne thee,—  
All loud proclaim thy glory,  
All chant to thee their choral.

Thy shaft is as a column  
Of heav'n's wide arch of azure,  
Thy boughs are spread about thee  
In stately sweeps of verdure ;  
Thy form is robed in splendor,  
With majesty invested —  
O praise be unto thee,  
Fair monument of time !

The winds are thy companions,  
The skies bend round thy branches,  
The earth supports thy vastness,—  
And all day long the soft winds sigh  
Their song of praise to thee,  
And all the night the wild winds weep  
Amid thy shelt'ring arms.

O tree of trees,  
O monarch of the grove,  
The mountains sound thy praises,

The birds declare thy glory,  
The brooks proclaim thy wonder,—  
And all day long the sweet springs sing  
To thee their liquid lays,  
And all the night they sob beneath  
Thy broad, protecting arms.

Thou watcher over birds,  
Thou guardian of flowers,  
Praise be to thee  
For all thy tender care!  
The white fog steals amid thy shade,  
The sun streams dimly through,  
The darkness falls about thy boughs ;  
The solemn night is near,  
But through its slumbering calm is heard  
Thy hymning strains on high !



## ALONG SHORE

The salt tide glances as sunbeams break on its wind-  
stirred breast,  
And a sail-furled fleet from the strife of the deep set  
free lies at rest;  
In the wavering smoke stand the towers and spires of  
the city of hills,  
And an impulse of life on the long shore line through  
the sea-mist thrills.

A steamer is pointing its high, sharp prow to the open sea,  
A tug pants by with deep-voiced cry blown far and  
free;  
At the docks is a forest of masts with a maze of cord-  
age and spars,  
And the flags of the nations are fluttering there 'mid  
the stripes and the stars.

The sun rolls off in the mist o'er the black-scarred  
brow of the town,  
And the fog for an instant is burnished with gold like  
a vanishing crown;  
Then one by one along shore shine the lights where  
the ebb-tide laves,  
Red and green 'mid the gold constellations that ripple  
their glow on the waves.

But the waves moan faintly of battles that busy the  
world afar,  
And the echoes of strife impending the peace of the  
evening mar.

I know not what burden of commerce the great sea  
bears on its tide,  
But O for the burden of sorrow that follows the spirit  
of pride!



## A DREAM OF EL DORADO

In a dream world I am drifting  
Down the misty plains of time,  
And I see a pageant shifting  
'Mid the measures of my rhyme,—  
Caballeros proudly riding,  
Out of mystic cañons gliding;  
On their Arab chargers prancing  
With their spears and sabers glancing  
Gaily as in olden time.

There are padres solemn chanting  
Vespers in the evening light,  
As the sun's last rays are slanting  
On their crucifixes bright,  
While the mission bells are ringing  
And the neophytes are singing,  
As the golden mist comes sweeping  
From the solemn sea, low weeping  
In the early hush of night.

On the harbor's heaving water  
Rides a gallant Spanish ship,  
And the commandante's daughter  
Lingers there with trembling lip,  
For her cavalier is calling  
And the night about is falling,  
While the purple sails are filling  
And her heart with grief is thrilling  
With the vessel's rise and dip.

Adios, O love-lorn maiden,  
Sail adown the leaden tide!  
Precious is thy vessel, laden  
With a prince's peerless bride.  
Leave the golden shore behind thee,  
May no bitter thought remind thee  
Of the rapture that has vanished,  
From thy El Dorado banished  
By thy father's haughty pride.

El Dorado with its golden  
Sands beside the shining sea,  
With its splendor in the olden  
Days of caballeros free,—  
With its wealth of hidden treasure,  
With its passion and its pleasure,—  
How its spell about us dallies,  
Haunting coast and peaks and valleys  
With its mystic chivalry!





## INVOCATION TO CALIFORNIA

Guerdon of gold of the sun is thy treasure  
From glist'ning Sierra to foam of the ocean,  
With fair flower-children in hosts beyond measure  
To yield thee their beauty with boundless devotion !

Royal the reaches of wheat in the valley !  
Abundance has blessed the wide wastes of the plain,  
And hosts of the strong-handed harvesters rally  
At dawn-flush to garner the glittering grain.

Full hang thy orchards with fruitage of summer,  
Thy citrons 'mid blossoms bless winter and spring,  
But autumn, the radiant year-cycle's last comer,  
Bears, clustered in purple, the grape which is king.

Gold, in thy rock-girded fastnesses hidden,  
The magic of science shall wrest from its store ;  
Insatiate progress, advancing, has bidden  
That bounty of earth be for man evermore :

For man as a trust and a torch, not to squander  
In riotous revel through profitless years,  
But a power that bids him to pause and to ponder  
On being and beauty, on triumph and tears !

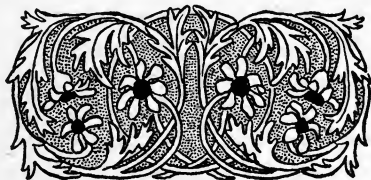
Here, here where the breezes of freedom are blowing,  
Shall beauty burst full into flow'rage to-day,  
And the will to do right shall, in proud hearts, be  
growing,  
With might to command and with strength to obey.

## TO AN ALASKAN GLACIER

Out of the cloud-world sweeps thy awful form,  
Vast frozen river, fostered by the storm  
Upon the drear peak's snow-encumbered crest,  
Thy sides deep grinding in the mountain's breast  
As down its slopes thou plowest to the sea  
To leap into thy mother's arms, and be  
There cradled into nothingness. How slow,  
How imperceptible, thy ceaseless flow,  
As one with an eternity unspent  
Wherein to round thy task of wonderment !  
Thy strength resistless is as will of fate ;  
The granite ground to sand beneath thy weight,  
The mountains hollowed out with furrows deep,  
The sculptured peaks that totter from their steep,  
All bear the matchless impress of thy skill,  
Grim mountain hewer ! With a sudden thrill  
Great bergs crash thunderously beneath the tide,  
And, slow emerging, o'er the waters ride  
Like boats of pearl slow floating to their doom,  
Which, fondly, the soft lapping waves consume.

I walked erstwhile upon thy frozen waves,  
And heard the streams amid thy ice-locked caves ;  
I peered down thy crevasses blue and dim,  
Standing in awe upon the dizzy rim.  
Beyond me lay the inlet still and blue,  
Behind, the mountains loomed upon the view  
Like storm-wraiths gathered from the low-hung sky.  
A gust of wind swept past with heavy sigh,

And lo ! I listened to the ice-stream's song  
Of winter, when the nights grow dark and long,  
And bright stars flash above thy fields of snow,  
The cold waste sparkling in the pallid glow,  
Or, when the storms wail round thy peaks and spires,  
Playing weird notes upon thy ice-wrought lyres  
Until the shuddering pinnacles, astrain,  
Tumble and crash amidst the seething main.  
Years, centuries and eons thou hast known,  
Waxing and waning in the wilds alone,  
Hoar mountain sculptor, shaper of the earth !  
The crystals of the snow which gave thee birth,  
Renewing still thy life, are o'er thee spread,  
And, as they fall, thou quiverest in thy bed,  
Stretching thy vastness down its narrow way  
And roaring like a god in fierce dismay ;  
Thus prisoned, eager in one mighty throe  
To leap into the sea and end thy woe !



## NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1900

Round swings the world until the curtained sun  
In leaden mist is lost beneath the sea;  
Upon this Western shore the day is done,  
And with the day a year has ceased to be.

Time looks not backward in its flight sublime,  
But, as the earth spins on from hour to hour,  
Sweeps forward grandly toward its golden prime  
And out of chaos shapes a world of power.

O, night that marks time's madly speeding course,  
Within the shadow of thy vasty deep  
Are pent new centuries of endless force  
That wait in sequence o'er the world to sweep.

What triumphs shall they bring and what defeat  
In these wide spirit-halls of mighty earth?  
This year two peerless cycles proudly meet,  
And may the new prove worthy of its birth!

Bethink thee, brothers, how the ages run,  
Bethink thee how the dizzy cycles roll,  
As each new year sweeps round the radiant sun,  
And Fate holds up on high her flaming scroll!

Shall Fate's stern finger point in silent scorn  
When in the scales the centuries are weighed?  
Shall you and I be judged that awful morn,  
And shall we hear our summons unafraid?

Come, then, O brothers, ere the age be spent,  
Let us be up and doing while we may,  
To spread a spirit of sublime content,  
To build the promise of a purer day.

Of old stood Babylon beside the stream  
And Athens reared her pillared temples fair,  
But lo! they vanished like a summer dream;—  
O, living age, forget not and beware!

Yet would I not see men too fondly turn  
In backward gaze, nor rest with what is done;  
Still forward must our eager longings yearn,  
Still greater victories must yet be won.

The new year dawns with plenty and with peace  
On these blest shores, these teeming hills and plains;  
The fertile fields are ripe for their increase  
And smile in welcome to abundant rains.

But Saxon armies fight on distant strands:—  
England, America, with shot and shell  
March in the wilderness of hostile lands,  
The Filipino and the Boer to quell.

O God, it is a fearful die to cast  
When growing nations clash with rights of man!  
The challenge "Progress!" round the world has passed  
As ne'er before since time's swift course began.

The weak must die, the low be swept away,  
For sterner stock is scattered o'er the earth;  
But shall we in our heart of hearts not say,  
"'Tis not for you and me to judge men's worth?"

O Judge of judges, may Thy will prevail!  
And if the law of progress be fulfilled,  
O never may its march of triumph fail  
To listen to Thy counsel, love enthralled!

May Christ in countless men be born this year  
To do their Father's bidding near and far!  
New cycles call us forward without fear  
While o'er us shines in heav'n love's guiding star!



## THE WAY OF THE WORLD

The old world goes its way, my dear,  
The old world goes its way,  
Though hearts may break and lives may fail,  
Though rosy cheeks grow wan and pale,  
We do but as we may, my dear,  
We do but as we may!

The old world goes its way, my dear,  
The old world goes its way;  
And some rejoice while others weep,  
And some have sown who may not reap;  
For time bears all away, my dear,  
For time bears all away!

The old world goes its way, my dear,  
The old world goes its way;  
But, spite of cares and spite of tears,  
A mighty purpose thrills the years,  
And who would say it nay, my dear,  
And who would say it nay?



## ON ALASKAN WATERS

Fiords of the West's north shore, where peaks austere  
Are cloudward thrust, enrobed in glist'ning snow,  
With ice-streams hoar that slowly tideward flow,  
Sculpturing their cliffs and crags that proudly rear  
Their pinnacles amid the heights of fear,—

Your wonders round my wildered senses grow  
As still they shift and added splendors show  
Where green hills past the sparkling sea appear.

What joy is this, to float upon the tide,  
So blue, so beautiful, past shores that rise  
Like portals to enchantment's fair demesne,  
'Mid islets forested to gently glide,  
Where every turn is rife with glad surprise  
And fancy revels in the changing scene.





TO A MOURNING DOVE

Summer has come with sun-seared valleys wide,  
The birds are all a-hushed in noon-day heat ;  
The reapers linger by the streamlet's side,  
When sounds the dove's fond, liquid murmur, sweet.

Fleet-winged haunter of June's golden plain,  
There is in thy sweet-murmured, lingering notes  
Such dreamy love, such spell of brooding pain  
As throbs from out no other birdling throats.

I love thy quivering cry on flashing wing,  
I love the mournful rapture of thy call !  
Though other birds with strains elate may sing,  
Some heavy sorrow holds thy heart in thrall.

Methinks thou art a high-born maiden, spelled  
In faery day for thy dear love's despite ;  
Thy heart's fond passion still lives on unquelled,  
Only thy maiden form has vanished quite.

O couldst thou have my lips thy grief to speak,  
What passion, what wild plaint we then should hear !  
Now tremble from thy tender little beak  
No strains save dreamy notes of longing drear.

## IN THE CAÑON

I sat on the bole of a laurel tree,  
The wren was my only guest,  
And the wind blew free with the witchery  
Of a spirit of sweet unrest.

It ruffled the wren's prim breast and fled,  
It trembled the hazel spray,  
It rustled the bed of sere leaves, spread  
O'er the path in its winding way.

Aloft in the lattice of green and blue,  
Where the sky and leaves enwove,  
The sun burst through, and its radiance grew  
To a golden lamp in the grove.

Methought I saw in the golden gleams  
A flash as of spirit wings;  
Lo! the whole grove teems with the host of dreams  
And the choir celestial sings!

It sings to the leaves upreached in prayer,  
It chants to the blithesome birds;  
Its sweet tones bear a message rare  
Of love too deep for words.

FROM THE HILLS BEYOND THE BAY

A NOCTURNE

The great world slumbers, silent at my feet.  
Hushed is the air ; the cañon's breezes, sweet,  
Through mossëd oaks breathe low their night refrain,  
Down wandering to the dark of dreaming plain.

High in the domed serene the orb of night  
Shines 'tween the cloud-host's wings of milky white ;  
Athwart the bay its pale effulgence gleams,  
Lighting the Gate of Gold with mystic beams.

Through that gold gate, at sea behold, a star  
Flashes its beacon from an islet far !  
Quivering like some fair spectre of desire —  
Some spirit phantom robed in flashing fire.

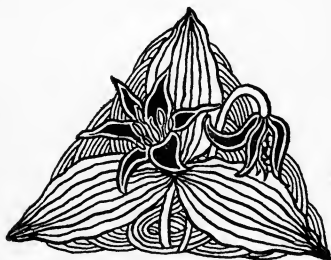
Ah, clearly through the Golden Gate of dreams  
A star across the night of slumber streams !  
And when I waken I shall call it mine,  
Clasping it next my heart in close entwine.

No beacon for a vessel drifting lone,  
By alien breezes o'er the ocean blown,  
Shall be my star, but in the blue above  
An orb of light—a world of joy and love.

## ON HEARING MUSIC IN THE WOODS

Lying 'neath the greenwood tree  
What a pageant I did see,—  
Sunlight's play of golden green,  
Purple shades that lurked between  
Mighty shafts with tops a-sway,  
While each drooping fringed spray  
Tossed before the summer breeze,  
Making music sweet to please  
Squirrel lithe or sporting bird:  
Such a stir of leaves I heard,  
Such a sweep æolean!  
Then the swelling pulse of man  
Throbbled in rhythmic melodies  
From the magic of the keys.  
Strains of great Beethoven rang  
While the birds above me sang,  
And my spirit caught his fire,  
Thrilling through the woodland choir,—  
Caught the sorrow of his strain,  
Caught the triumph over pain.  
Faster swept the tones and faster  
With the passion of the master,  
Till my quiet woodland bower  
Trembled with his awful power,  
Shook as with the trump of fate  
Blown by angels at the gate,  
While the wind's low sigh had grown  
To a mighty spirit moan,  
To the murmur of the dead

Floating from the blue o'erhead,  
With celestial whisperings.  
There was parl of cloudy kings,  
Clash of arms and warring cries,  
Strains of peace and maiden sighs.  
Then the mighty music ended  
But my spirit still contended  
Till the busy stir of life  
Drew my fancy from the strife,  
Drew me to the rippling green  
Round my woodland bow'r serene.



## MAIDEN GOLDEN HAIR

Sweet maiden Golden Hair! —  
Never shone half so fair  
Sun in the morning mist,  
Glowing 'mid amethyst,  
As thy sweet presence shines full upon me.

Songs of the birds that pass,  
Reed pipes of ocean grass,  
Plashing of mountain rill,  
Redwoods with joy athrill, —  
All chant thy praise by the West's golden sea.

Sweet maiden Golden Hair,  
Since thy fond spirit rare  
Rose in my firmament,  
Stars through the darkness sprent  
Waned in the azure beneath thy clear gaze.

Shadows of clouds above  
Brighten through perfect love,  
Discords of music blend,  
Echoes no more contend,  
Shaped by thy presence to pæans of praise.

ALONE AT MONTEREY

The sea throbs faintly at my feet,  
Amid the rocks it swashes low,  
In pale green sweeps  
And purple deeps  
It undulates with tireless beat,  
It pulses in unending flow.

All green and brown the seaweed clings  
To pallid rocks, wave-worn and grim;  
The mountains rise  
To misty skies,  
The wind amid the cypress sings,  
And sea-birds wander dark and dim.

O might I on their pinions span  
The misty leagues 'twixt thee and me,  
Above the foam  
My love I'd roam;  
With tireless wings the air I'd fan  
Until I rested safe with thee!

## A SONG

O well-a-day, well-a-day, summer is merry  
And my love hath a mouth like a wild ripe berry,  
With her sun-burnt cheeks and her wind-tossed tresses,  
That flutter to welcome the breezes' caresses.

O well-a-day, well-a-day, we went a-straying  
Where flowers were blooming and birdlings a-playing.  
I laughed with my love while the birdies sang nigh us  
And the sweet-voiced stream went a-pattering by us.

O well-a-day, well-a-day, youth is soon over  
For time is a thief and the year is a rover!  
So fondly I kissed my love, laughing in glee,  
And under the oak bough my dearie kissed me!





AT KADIAK, ALASKA

*Read on the Harriman Expedition, July 4, 1899.*

Is this the wilderness—these green-sward hills,  
These wastes of lupine, wind-flower and of rose,  
These slopes of heather by the mountain rills  
O'erhung by skies of gold through day's slow close,  
Where one long lotus dream obscures all human woes?

Here sing the birds on height and in the glade ;  
The warblers flash afield like waifs of gold,  
The thrushes chant their vespers in the shade,  
The northern robin's pipe afar is rolled,  
While in the Russian church the bells are clanged  
and tolled.

We rovers, tarrying here this festal day,  
Still see the flag of home wave proud on high,  
Still find a welcome on our seaward way,  
For where the flag waves, home and friends are nigh ;—  
The eagle flaps his wings and makes exultant cry.

His cry is liberty as heaven's high dome  
He scales on peerless wing, and we in kind  
Shout back our answer as we westward roam,  
Trusting our voicing to the heedless wind  
That haunts the misty sea, a pilgrim lost and blind.

Call ye this liberty, where law's strong hand  
In nerveless palsy falters over wrong—  
Sing ye of freedom in a lawless land?

The very winds shall mock your idle song  
And in a wail each syllable of pain prolong.

We who have failed to rule a wilderness  
Now preach of liberty in tropic seas ;  
Forsooth our sway the Orient hordes shall bless  
While politicians trim to every breeze,—  
O God, must our dear sons be slain, such men to  
please ?

O, teach us in this wilderness Thy ways,  
And by the mountains let Thy law be sung ;  
No work of man endures which disobeys  
Thy bidding ; every clod shall find a tongue,  
And liberty by bells innumerable be rung.



A SUMMER DAY

The rain is over  
And grass and clover  
On rolling hill  
Are brown and yellow,  
While fruit grows mellow  
For lip and bill.

The dust is flying ;  
Wild flowers are dying  
Beside the way.  
Fledglings are winging ;  
The brook's sweet singing  
Is stilled to-day.

The buzzard is wheeling  
Where sea-mist stealing  
Enfolds its wings ;  
The night is falling  
While thrush, loud calling,  
His matin sings.



## SAN FRANCISCO FROM AFAR

The jays laugh shrill, the flicker calls,  
And—hush! the silken sweeping breeze  
'Mid oak boughs rustling swells and falls;  
Far spreads the plain 'neath branchèd trees.

The waning sun with silver glow  
Is flashed upon the water wide,  
And stately ships are drifting slow  
Across the sparkling reach of tide.

How peaceful seems the scene outspread—  
But O the city's line of blue,  
What hopes and fears there nourishèd  
Are panting 'neath my placid view!



## JUNE IN THE WOODLAND

Vireo on oak bough,  
Swallow on the wing,  
Sun upon the glistening stream,  
Joy in everything !

Stirrings in the trout pool,  
Whir of wings above,  
Insects humming in the trees,  
Distant coo of dove !

Blossoms on the buckeye,  
Perfuming the breeze,  
Murmurs of the rippling brook,  
Voices from the trees !

Love amid the tree-tops,  
Love amid the vale,  
Bill to bill, as lip to lip,  
Tells the tender tale !

## A SONG OF THE HILLS

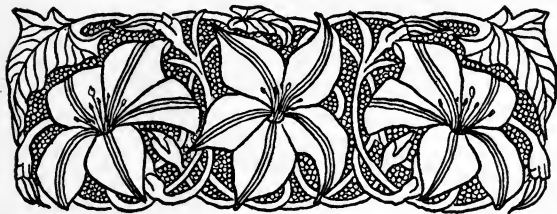
O, 'twas over the hills of gold and green  
And under the bright blue sky  
We danced away  
At the break of day  
To sing where the poppies their cups did lean,  
To shout as a hawk swept proudly by.

O, 'twas hand in hand that we danced along  
To the shadowy, fern-paved dell,  
Where the trilium swayed  
In the cool, sweet glade,  
Seeming to answer our happy song  
With its tender blessing, "All's well, all's well!"

We loitered in passing beneath the trees  
And joined in the wind's low prayer,  
We whispered our love  
While the breezes above  
Murmured to me, "Louise, Louise,"  
And methought 'twas of all fair days most fair.

## TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Here, where the gentle hand of God, outspread  
In benediction, has bestowed such blue  
And purple mist upon the bay, such view  
Of ocean far through golden portals led,  
Or, in the gloaming, such a royal red,  
Sweeping the tide and spreading high its hue  
Like banners of Cathay flung wide, there grew  
A consecrated pile to learning wed.  
O may the stones here reared make mute appeal  
With their dumb eloquence for beauty's dower,  
And may they be the center, whence shall steal  
A presence through the land, a might, a power  
Shaping the West to ends more fair and strong,  
Finding expression meet in toil and song.



## JOY OF THE PASSING DAY

O for a lilt of the lark on the lea  
And the oriole's caroling, joyous and free !  
Sing cheerily, cheerily, lightsome and loud,  
Summer is round us with never a cloud !

O for a song of my love in the home,  
And the laughter of children at play in the gloam !  
Sweet sound my birdlings, their pinions half grown,  
But O should I waken to find they had flown !





## AUTUMN IN THE SIERRAS

The gentle summer zephyrs yield their sway  
To blustering blasts that down the frigid stream  
Of high Sierra glacier bear dismay

To tender foliage when autumn's gleam  
Of golden sun has lost its quick'ning charm  
And fails the frost king's legions to disarm,  
As on they bear their flags in bright array.

The pine trees sway their tasseled boughs aloft  
As rude winds revel at their wanton will,  
Making wild music 'mid their tops, while oft

The lone woodpecker calls in accents shrill  
And asters tremble with foreboding fear.  
The streamlet sobs while all the leaflets dear  
Are fluttering to the earth with wailings soft.

The mice beside the runnels seek retreat,  
The prudent squirrel finds his winter nest,  
The swallows wing them south on pinions fleet,  
The flowers shrink upon their mother's breast.  
Now sobs the cold bleak rain on leafless trees  
And on the sedgy pools of mountain leas,  
Proclaiming weary autumn's swift defeat.

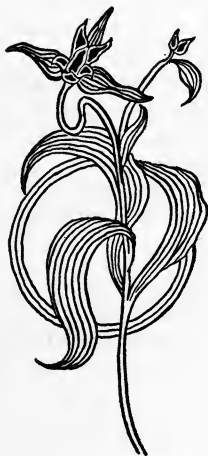
## THE NIGHT FOG

Misty wraiths of mindless ocean,  
Wreathèd spectres shoreward stealing,  
Phantoms in a still commotion  
Aimless onward rolling, reeling,—  
Haunting seas with silent winging,  
Lingering o'er the land so dreary,  
Freight of tears to flowers bringing,  
Ever winding, dull and weary!

From the hills I see thy masses  
Through the Golden Gate in-streaming,  
Like a shrouded host that passes  
'Mid the brain in restless dreaming,  
Cresting Tamalpais with hoary  
Piles of fleece in splendor lightened  
When the gloaming's wizard glory  
All their length with gold has brightened.

'Mid the cañons gliding stilly,  
Through the oaks and laurels slipping  
Till the verdure of the hilly  
Slopes with cooling mist is dripping —  
Thus all night the fog is sweeping  
Like a caravan of sorrow,  
Ghostly and in silence weeping  
O'er the troubles of the morrow.

Thus all night its host is winding  
Up the hills and down the cañons,  
Till the morning sun is finding  
In the fields its day companions —  
Birds amid the yellow grasses  
Where the dewdrops bright are glimming,  
Summer flow'rs and singing lasses:  
Morning's cup with joy is brimming !



## THE NORTH WIND

'Tis roar and shriek and whistle and moan  
When the breath of the North blows over the land,  
And the timbers creak and the big boughs groan  
And wave as if shaken by Titan hand.

O'er the fields of grain with its parching breath  
It blows till the green blades wither and die,  
For it blights the herbage with blast of death  
As its torrid frenzy goes shrieking by.

Forth from the desert of burning sand,  
Envious of all that is green and fair,  
The north wind leaps with his fierce command  
To conquer the hosts of the realm of air.

The wind king calls to his chariot host  
And the horses are harnessed and lashed along  
South through the valleys beside the Coast  
Sweeping and shouting their savage song.

The clouds are scattered, the sky is clear,  
And the great stars sparkle and flash all night  
As the wing'd steeds in their mad career  
Storm through the azure with fatal flight.

O wind king, why do you ravage our fields  
With three days' revel and three nights' song?  
*Because I am fate and the wide earth yields  
And none may dispute me for none are so strong.*

## THE DROUTH

From Shasta south to El Cajon,  
From Tahoe to the sea-girt shore,  
No cloud in answer to our moan  
Bears prophecy of rain once more.

The north wind blows a bitter drouth,  
The west wind sweeps across the plain,  
But O the wind of east and south  
Comes not with cheering sign of rain.

The herbage starts not on the hills,  
The cattle starve in pastures sear,  
The fruit trees wilt and babbling rills  
Lapse off in sand and disappear.

O clouds of hope, O welcome wind,  
We pray thee kiss our fainting flowers;  
To this fair fruitful land be kind  
And bless us with abundant showers!



## THE COMING OF THE RAIN

A mist o'er the blue and a south wind blowing,  
A moist mild air and the cattle lowing,  
The dull clouds gathering darker and nearer —  
The rain! ho, the rain! could blessing be dearer?

The first drops fall upon heaven-turned faces;  
The spots dint the dust in the parched-up places;  
Then the clouds yield their bounty in torrents abounding,  
And the strain of the swift-streaming waters is sounding.

On the roof is a patter, from eaves is a dripping,  
And the flowers and the ferns the sweet nectar are  
sipping,  
As the murmuring strain of the shower is swelling,  
Good cheer to the sward in the swale sweetly telling.

The grass wakens green as if startled from slumber;  
No more shall the dust-cloud the fair land encumber;  
And the sparrow sings loud from his perch on the  
brier,  
Sweet-voicing the answer to each heart's desire.

## A VISION OF THE WEST

Far land, the margent of the mighty West,  
Famed El Dorado, prophesied of yore,  
A storied wilderness of wild unrest,  
A teeming treasure-house by ocean's shore!

How often, as a boy, I dreamed of thee  
With all thy matchless wonders, dim and fair,—  
Thy gate that opens to the Orient sea,  
Thy gold, thy fruits, thy flowers, thy peerless air,

Thy zonēd snow-peaks gloriously piled,  
Thy yawning gulf, Yosemite, sublime,  
Circled with domes and crags of splendor wild,  
Thy conēd Titans of unmeasured time,

Towering imperial past all lofty trees!  
These dreams were mine, but little did I know  
How soon in joy I'd greet such scenes as these,  
Destined amid their wilding grace to grow.

The woods and waters had my teachers been,  
Telling me tales of wonder and delight:  
The birds that sported 'mid leaf-lattice screen,  
May flow'rs that starred the meads with colors bright.

Oft had I seen the sun's bright shield of gold  
Surge from the lake that laves Wisconsin's strand,  
Imaged across the water blue and cold,  
Whereat joy trembled o'er th' awakening land.

When winter's cutting gales swept fierce and free  
Down th' wide upland plains of pil'd snow,  
I loved to wade across the windy lea  
To see the lake far-paved with icen floe,

Or edge along the frozen river's rim,  
The keen wind whistling thro' the boughs o'erhead,  
Where scritch-owl nestled on his riven limb  
And rabbit bounded to a snowy bed.

What memories of lakes, leaf-fringed and green,  
What summer revelries with birds and flowers  
Haunt me with joy whene'er I peer atween  
The mist of years that shrouds those happy hours!

The sail wide-flung to the exultant breeze,  
The camp, the paddle's dip, the sport, the song,  
The fire that glowed amidst the night-dark trees,  
The comradery of youth, the friendship strong!

And there was love to warm these sylvan days,  
New dawning with its wonder-working spell,  
Op'ning fair vistas down the darkling ways  
Where mystery and gentle beauty dwell.

Then were my eyes to poesy unsealed  
And common things grew strange, in beauty dight;  
Such was the power a little child could wield  
To glorify youth's darkness with her light.

But there were many leagues of plain and height  
And many years of heavy pain for me;  
Westward the way until upon my sight  
Broke the wide reaches of the western sea!



Ah, California, vested wild and fair,  
When I became a foster-child of thine,  
Breathing the balm of thy pellucid air,  
Beholding night-starred heaven's bright pageant shine,

Climbing thy dizzy heights to see the world  
Empurpled far below in misty sweep,  
And watching waves of ocean grandly hurled  
In crests of triumph from the tossing deep,

I knew that thou should'st be my rightful nurse,  
And longed to grow into thy ample grace.  
Would that I might prove worthy to rehearse  
In loving song the beauty of thy face!

In solitude of loveless days I dwelt,  
Fretted by hours that brought no balm of rest;  
Before the altar Truth alone I knelt,  
An eremite of science, sore oppressed.

For in my heart waged conflict day by day;  
Before me loomed the crystal heights of song;  
I learned that facts, construe them how we may,  
Deign not to reckon beauty, right, or wrong.

The steel'd knife may probe the heart of man,  
But love alone can penetrate his soul;  
Then I bethought me how, since time began,  
'Tis love that shapes the world with sweet control.

Amid thy mountains did the vision grow,  
I saw it written clear on pine and oak,  
'Twas voic'd loud on windy peaks of snow,  
And on the sea's bare breast its anthem woke.

Then grew the vision to incarnate guise ;  
The shadow form in living truth was dight :  
I looked in rapture on thy steadfast eyes,  
My love, and saw therein the dawning light !

Could we but live the life of love we dream,  
Could we but toil to make it firm and true,  
Could we but live with such ideal supreme,  
Some little part of love's high task to do !

Thus have we striv'n to gain pure beauty's fire,  
Toiled on, tho' clouds hung heavy round our way  
And little lips have lisped our dear desire,  
Teaching us how, in loving deeds, to pray.

Thou art a daughter of the untrammelled West,  
Dear wife, endowed with largess of its grace,  
But with a calmness in thy tender breast  
Bespeaking culture of a gentler race.

In thee my vision finds fulfilment meet,  
In thy large eyes and crown of golden hair,  
In thy mild ways, thy accents fine and sweet,  
In thy dear presence, beautiful and fair.

The sun that swings atop the hills of morn,  
The crescent dipping toward the sea at night,  
The chanting forests stirred by winds new-born,  
High peals of music in melodious flight—

Aye, all fair things that be, when thou art near,  
Partake of thy loved graciousness serene,  
And in my sight the woes of life appear  
Robbed by thy smile of all their heavy teen.

Enough, my love, of gentle things and mild !  
There is in this rude land stern work to do,—  
Harsh, warring creeds that must be reconciled,  
False idols to be felled, and paths to hew

Up heights of learning — summits bright of song ;  
Men need we, where so many ape the few,  
To sift the gold of right from sands of wrong,  
To weigh the false in balance with the true !

O for the clear courageous voice to tell  
Those truths which men would fain see put aside !  
O for a Circe cup wherewith to spell  
Back to their own true guise the beasts of pride !

White ships depart from our hill-circled bay,  
Forth faring o'er the waste of pathless sea ;  
Does love propel them on their weary way,  
And do they go to make the world more free ?

Ah sophists, for a moment face the fact  
That freedom must be practiced to be learned ;  
Not as they must but as they will men act  
When tyranny and serfdom have been spurned.

The vision I have dreamed through years of pain  
I cannot barter now for lands and power ;  
If love be truth then empire lust is vain,  
Foredoomed to crumble with the passing hour.

But there are men in this proud West who hold  
No servile check to utt'rance clear and high.  
Let them be strong, O God, and true, and bold  
For human rights afar to stoutly cry !

Perchance it little counts for thee and me  
What fate befalls ten million alien men—  
The spawn of tropic isles across the sea,  
That dwelt two years ago beyond our ken,

But if we play th' oppressor we must pay  
The tyrant's fee to time. Beware the cost!  
Has not man-traffic brought enough dismay?  
With what is gained, O count what will be lost!

Lost, our prized birthright—love for all things free;  
Lost, pity for the lowly and oppressed;  
Lost, love—what other loss more sad could be,  
A land with love vanished from its breast!

But let us not give o'er to boding fears,—  
The right must triumph and the true prevail;  
Tho' justice cost a nation blood and tears  
The love at heart of us shall never fail.

There is an earnest in this westward slope  
Of high achievements, glorious enterprise,—  
A mighty stirring of expectant hope:  
Still on beyond the El Dorado lies!

Beauty shall here hold court upon the heights  
And men shall fashion temples for her shrine,  
With chantings high of praise and starward flights  
Of silver chords and organ's throb divine.

The sculptor here shall hew the formless stone  
To shapes of beauty dreamed on cloud-throned crest;  
The painter shall reveal what he alone  
Saw as he brooded on th' earth-mother's breast.

The Orient, looming through its mist of time,  
Shall yield its garner'd treasury of thought  
To stamp its charact'ry of stablished prime  
On this young West with wealth of promise fraught.

I thank thee, Fate, that thou hast rolled my star  
To this horizon rife with latent might,  
That I may share the glories reaching far  
From peaks of snow to sunset's seaward light,

That I may do my part, though slight it be,  
To shape the chaos into beauty's mold,  
In nature's sight, which holds us all in fee,  
To toil for truth's transcendent sands of gold.



## A VOICE ON THE WIND

And out of the West came a voice on the wind:—  
O seek for the truth and behold, ye shall find!  
O strive for the right and behold, ye shall do  
All things that the Master commandeth of you.

For love is the truth ye have sought for so long,  
And love is the right that ye strove for through wrong;  
Love! love spheres our lives with a halo of fire,  
But God, how 'tis dimmed by each selfish desire!



## AN IDYL OF THE PINES

In solitude where all is wild and fair,  
True love grows strong and deep beyond compare;  
For here the Master of the high serene  
Broods with joy-spirit o'er the leafy green,  
And bends to beauty every leaf and flower  
That smiles in token of his loving power.

Here wandered you and I, my love, alone,  
Harkening to swaying pine bough's wintry moan.  
From oaks the leaves of gold were blown,  
And sweet as children's songs the tone  
Of silver rills  
Amid the hills.  
The summer birds had flown;  
But you and I, my love, fled not away,—  
The mountains and the pines breathed, "Stay, O stay!  
Stay where the squirrel frisks in autumn glee,  
Where deer, lithe-limbed, in woodsy haunts are free,  
Where freshening showers fall to start the green,  
Where beauty fondly reigns in far demense."

We heard the voice of peak and pine,  
We saw glad autumn's gold sunshine;  
We staid to tell, in close entwine,  
The secrets God and lovers only know,  
By wind in pines reverberated low.

What songs of gladness thronged October's breeze,  
Stealing atween the trellis green of trees,  
Mingling in one vast symphony of praise

For Him whose largess wrought these golden days!  
The mountain quail loud voiced his whistling note,  
The little sparrow shook his streaked throat,  
The lengthened cadence of the flicker's call  
Fell, joyous, down the mighty forest hall,  
While on the ground the crisp leaves lightly stirred  
'Neath rabbit's bound or dainty trip of bird.

And, dost remember love, the wavering lines  
Of forest-serried ridges, dark and still,  
The mountain slopes, deep furrowed, robed in pines,  
The yellow-barked madroño by the rill?  
The poison-oak glowed all aflame  
With crimson leaves the day we came;  
The wild grapes trailed their lace of gold,  
And black oaks in their arms did hold  
The glory of the autumn high  
Toward clouds of white that, 'gainst the sky,  
In fleecy masses floated by.

Why was the sky so deep and blue,  
And why the day so fair?  
Was earth not decked, my love, for you?  
The mountains little care  
Whether we glory in their might  
Or sleep beneath their sod,  
But beauty is our own birthright —  
Our heritage from God.

The plump grapes hung in clusters on the vine  
Beside our cottage door, the bright sunshine  
Purpling the branches as it streamed between  
The lattice where they grew, a royal screen



That scarce obscured the lovely world without,  
Decked for the pageant of the autumn's rout.

Then, on a day,  
The blustering wind twitched off the mantle gay —  
Stripping the spent leaves from their boughs,  
Breathing innumerable tearful vows  
Of winter, cold and gray.  
The sapling oaks stood 'gainst a leaden sky,  
Their taper branchlets stiffly turned on high,  
Purple and shivering in the frosty air,  
While gnarl'd patriarchs with hoar trunks stood bare,  
Their black limbs writhed and lifted in despair  
Like olden druids in beseeching pose  
Telling of earth's immeasurable woes.

The rain fell, following fast upon the wind,  
Swelling the streams that answered loud its voice.  
With ceaseless muffled roar all night the blind  
Wild surge of foaming water sang, Rejoice!  
The salmon hied them from the ocean's deep,  
Battling against the torrent's seaward leap  
To spawn amid the mountain pools in peace;  
And, ere the sun had marked the rain's surcease,  
The birds came flocking from the mountain crest, —  
The blithe plump robin with its earth-red breast,  
The kinglet green, bedecked in crimson crown,  
The winter wren, a merry monk in brown,  
The snowbird gay, the sportive chickadee,  
All joined the festive winter revelry,  
Flitting from tree to tree  
And shaking off the beaded crystals bright  
Like diamonds on the needles of the pine

Left by the rain and burnished by the bright  
Clear joyance of the sun's quick flash divine.

Dark loom the mountains through the cloud,  
Their peaks still cumbered with the shroud  
Of sullen mist about them spread ;  
The drifted snow through cañons down is led  
In scraggling hoary beards on pine-clad breasts.  
What witchery the mountain's shrine invests  
When the great bulwarks of the sky are rent  
By golden shafts of sun in triumph hurled,  
And tokens of the heaven's all-reaching tent  
Show, still immutable, above the world !

O was it not a joy, my love, to be  
Thus face to face with earth's divinity ! —  
To see the splendor growing hour by hour,  
To watch the changes by mysterious power  
Wrought in the rolling clouds and mighty hills,  
Flashing down valleys with such quickening thrills  
Of light and mist, bewildering in their stream,  
As would the very rocks from death redeem,  
Mossing them deep in lush green fronds with fair  
Fine filaments of fern — the maiden-hair,  
The gold-back and the brake !  
Out of the stone they wake  
At the bidding of the rain, rain, rain ;  
All the bounty of their beauty spread in vain,  
Save for you and me to love them,  
Save that God within them and above them  
Even slighter things than these to love would deign.

And O, beloved, dost thou not recall  
The solemn splendor of the night's slow fall —

The fairy pinnacles of pines afar  
In jetty spires upon the darkling hill,  
The waxing brilliance of the even star,  
The saffron west with crimson clouds athrill —  
The sedgy pools that 'mid the shadows shone,  
Haunted by blackbirds in melodious throng,  
Clamoring and calling, while we two, alone,  
Listed to them and heard the night wind's song  
Come swelling, solemn, through the pine woods vast?  
The night was silent when the choir swept past.  
Then, in the gloam, we sought the meadow's marge,  
The dark trees looming round us dim and large,  
And, as we peered amidst their umbery shade,  
We saw proud antlered deer walk down the glade,  
Ready at sign of menace swift to leap  
Far into cover of the forest deep.  
The little owl his flute-notes trembled low,  
The stars shone dimly through the west's pale glow;  
We walked as in a trance and looked above  
At heaven's o'erarching sphere of boundless love.

Again the change, again the rain,  
The drip of eaves, the sleet on pane,  
The sweep of winds that wail and blow,  
The rattling hail, the soundless snow,—  
The air one riot of wild, whirling flakes!  
The crested jay his feathers vainly shakes,  
As 'mid the pines he lurks, disconsolate,  
Crouching to 'scape the storm that blusters round;  
The squirrels, snug in hollows, drowse and wait—  
The still earth echoes to no living sound.  
Out of the leaden, close-investing clouds  
The white flakes tumble in tumultuous crowds,

Until the earth, in ermine muffled deep,  
Settles, content, into a soundless sleep.

It seems but yestereve, dear love, when all  
The earth lay tranced 'neath silent, snow-spread pall,  
While you and I, close-bosomed, heart to heart,  
Looked on the waste, in solitude apart  
From turmoil and the vexing toil of life.  
For one brief span were lonely fancies rife,  
Till, from the hearts of mighty poets dead,  
We peopled the wide solitude with shades  
And spirits fair whose shining pathway led  
With hymeneal pæans to the glades  
Of Tempe or the dread Olympian heights,  
Or to the heavens whence chaunts of angels fell,  
While starry torches beamed their twinkling lights  
And wrought on mortals their mysterious spell.

Sing with me, love, in the fire light,  
Sing with me, love, and be gay!  
Storms blow around us,  
Pine trees are sighing,  
White flakes are flying,  
Winter has found us —  
But can we not sing of the May,  
My love, as we sit in the fire light?

The morning dawned with wonder-work to show! —  
The hills and forests wide bespread with snow —  
A wilderness of white o'erhung with gray  
And rifts of blue above the mountain's brow;  
The tranquil hush slow ushered in a day  
Made sacred by the winter's snow-sealed vow.

The oak's black tracery showed blacker still  
Against the white that margined twig and spray.  
The dark firs loomed anear the ice-bridged rill  
With snow enwreathed in glorious array;  
The long pine needles, pressed beneath the weight  
Of piled snow, were pointing toward the ground.  
A lone woodpecker shrilled to absent mate,  
A rabbit 'scaped the open, bound on bound.

It was a spectacle of beauty rare,  
This miracle of snow so fair,  
Piled over mountain, vale and tree,  
For nothing in the wide, wide world  
More stainless or more pure could be.  
Methought it did but image thee,  
My love, so full of maiden mystery,  
So calm, so fair, so free!

Bleak winter's day is spent; with thrill of life  
The spring is near!  
With flowers dear  
The woodland wastes give praise, and there is rife  
A spirit of keen rapture, a wild bliss,  
A nameless something which we cannot miss  
And still grow spirit-wise,—a soul aglow  
With the fine gold of buttercup, a sudden flow  
Of heart-blood to the temples; for behold  
The nodding pepper-grass unfolds its petals white,  
So daintily upreaching from the mold,  
And in the woods there is a royal sight  
Where shooting stars, in purple dight,  
With black beaks, yellow-rimmed, are swayed  
By each soft breeze that haunts the glade.

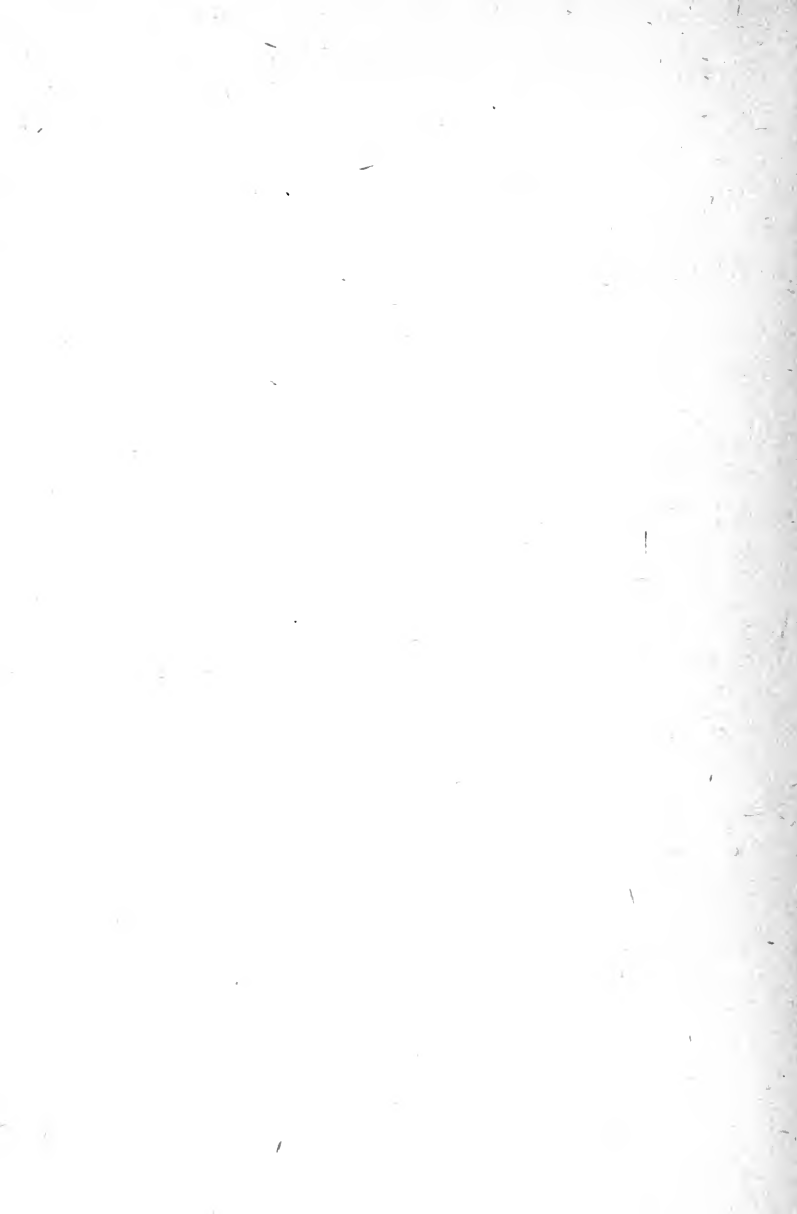
All spirits, life-endued, now greet the sun ; —  
The Ethiop spiders in the roadway run,  
The spermophiles beside their burrows call,  
And, silent, wavering in its rise and fall,  
A veined Vanessa flutters through the dell,  
Trembles in fragile beauty on a bell,  
And, honey-surfeited, light flits away.  
Bird strains uprise to glad the balmy day,  
The praiseful choir ascending pure and high.  
The wine of life has fallen from the sky  
To quicken every clod so cold and dumb !

Methought the resurrection day had come,  
For joyous spirits rose on every side  
And smiled at you, my own beloved bride.  
Then, at full tide of happy spring, it fell  
That we should leave these tender spirits known  
And loved so keenly — leave the ferny dell,  
The hymning forest, the cool, joyous tone  
Of brook-plash — leave the flowers and birds, the sense  
Of nearness to the power that carved the hills,  
The wild awakening of spring, intense  
In rush of joy across the land that thrills  
Each teeming clod upon the fruitful earth.  
Yea, in our hearts felt we a second birth,  
An advent of unwonted spirit power  
To be close cherished from that vernal hour.  
We left the pines and years have swept us on  
Some measure of our way, but there has gone  
Aye with us an ineffable serene  
Content that cometh from the mountains green,  
A nearer vision, and a clearer light  
That quenchless beams amid the darkest night.

# WOODLAND TALES HESPERIAN

WHEREIN ARE NARRATED NATURE MYTHS  
OF CALIFORNIA







## INDUCTION

When Greekish groves by Nereids were trod  
And seas were populous with Tritons fair,  
When through high heav'n the splendid god of light  
Urged his flame chariot from dawn to dark,  
And from Olympus thunder'd Zeus the law,  
In haunts remote another race divine  
For beauty strove amid green lawns and bow'rs,  
Making the mountains vocal with their songs.  
Here dreamed the fair Hesperides, I ween,  
In gardens of the west all girt about  
With solemn sea and waste of pathless sand  
Enchanted vales, unfooted save by gods,  
Report whereof scarce touched sage Homer's ear,  
So shrouded in seclusion were their halls,  
So distant from Troy's battlements their heights.  
Proud mountains towered about the blissful plains,  
Their pinnacles high thrust amid the blue,  
And California was yclept this fair  
God-haunted region by the foaming sea.  
Had I the magic of forgotten song  
'Twould be a joy to conjure into thought  
Full blown, the wonder of that peerless time,  
To make old gods live brightly on my page,  
Warring and wooing as in olden day,  
Beauteous and brave and full of mighty strife;  
But, like a minstrel wandered far from home  
Who sees men knit their brows against his song,  
I falter, fearing lest my tale shall fall  
On alien ears and skeptic brains to-day.

Howbeit, some fragments must I strive to sing  
Of that forgotten life, that golden time  
Beyond the ken of mortals, vanished quite,  
Like brooding dream which mem'ry dim recalls.  
For scarce a name is left to haunt the heights  
Whereon they strove so zealously for grace,  
And scarce a flow'ret lifts its modest head  
Those lovers' beauty to immortalize;  
But Shasta lives, a glorious, crown'd cone,  
And still Sequoias tow'r in woodland glades;  
The goddess fair, Godetia, smiles, a flow'r,  
And Colias, golden-winged, about her flits,  
Even as in that blest age he longed to be  
Circling about her modest loveliness.  
Of these and kindred shall I forth recount  
Such high emprise as misty legends tell,  
Echoing their travails in my wild wood tales.



## HOW SHASTA WON THE FIRE

*Being a myth of the lava-flows of early times*

A gnomish race toiled deep in earth recess,  
A host misshaped and black, of wild demean,  
In stony caverns fettered and debased,  
The slaves of Mica, lord of nether world.  
For him they delved and strove with forged bars,  
They made fair crystals bloom in tombs of death,  
Conjuring strange beauty of amorphous stone,—  
The vermilion cinnabar, the turquoise blue,  
The tinted quartz with ruddy gold entwined.  
With fire they wrought their subtle alchemy  
Whereby earth chambers were so wondrous deck'd,  
And 'mid their haunts below they pent their flame,  
Lest they be reft of this their talisman.  
It happened that Mica strove with lords of day  
In deadly feud, and wrought them havoc sore,  
Whelming their plains with cinders blown abroad  
Or spreading molten rock on their demesne,  
Shaking the earth with mad convulsive throes,  
And opening pits hell-deep, that fearful yawned.  
The gods of day by no device could smite  
Fell Mica with his flame-entrenched throng  
And knew not how a host so armed to quell.  
In solemn state convened they sought device  
Whereby to stay great Mica's mailed hand  
And save from ravage all their royal vales.  
In that bright group stood Calochortus fair,  
Prince of celestial powers in Hesperus,

Clad all in golden vesture purple pied,  
And haughty Aster in his raiment bright,  
And fair Sturnellus with his silver flute.  
The sad Lycentra statue-like was poised  
In folded marble robe, as if she knew  
What fate was darkly brooding for her woe,  
And eke Vanessa swayed on trembling wing,  
A fairy goddess of the woodsy flow'rs.  
They met in that mad vale Yosemite,  
High-domed about with purple peaks of snow,  
With crags where thunder-clouds austerely rest,  
With falls far leaping in a trembling mist  
From skyward peaks, all wreathed in rainbow spans,  
With vernal slopes upreaching toward the blue,  
And swardy floor with patens bright of flow'rs.  
There sage Atharpos, councillor of gods,  
Uplifted thus his voice to heedful ears:  
"Mistake not thy vain prowess, peers, I pray!  
In vain we cope with foe in armor dight  
Of fire, whose lance is flame, whose voice is death.  
'Tis not misprision of high duty, no,  
Nor frailty nor fear that thwarts our might,  
But only fire, and this alone our bane.  
Could some one penetrate his sombrous port  
From thence to bear a brand of quickening flame,  
Well might we hope for vantage in the strife."  
He ceased, and loud approval stirred the host  
While many a god would fain be first to seek  
In deadly hazard the forbidden fire.  
To Shasta fell the high-renown'd trust  
Of delving lone to Mica's molten halls  
And well the peril did become his zeal.

He was a god serene of countenance,  
Of lofty stature and majestic mien.  
Mantled in white he stood, with rim of gold  
Tracing fair flowers about his gracious form.  
Forth strode he to the north where grew a peak  
Aloft toward cloudland, swelling from the plain,  
Its crest all hoar with century-garnered snow,  
Whence issued ominous jets of sulph'rous smoke,  
And fearful flames in lurid tongues flashed out  
From Mica's dark dominions deep within.  
He, nothing loth, swept up from height to height,  
Past meadows of fair flowers, through gloom'd wood,  
O'er waste of rock, up height on height of snow,  
Till, from the crowning pinnacle he viewed  
The fair earth swooning dizzily below,  
With purple mist-hung valleys wide and wild,  
With serried ridges 'mid the clouds afloat,  
Peaks half revealed and pinnacles of fire  
Where flashed the sun on sparkling wastes of snow.  
At foot of him gaped wide the dark abyss  
Down into Mica's halls, whence belch'd sounds  
Of conflict and of toil, the hiss of steam,  
The stithy's mighty roar, and voices weird  
In babel of unearthly broil below.  
He paused at that dark threshold, then, unfeared  
Down plung'd in the gaping gulf of flame  
To meet what fate might wait him at hell's throne.  
As deep he spun down darksome pit of death  
The air pulsed fast with thunder-throbs and gleams  
Of fearful light came flashing on his brain;  
Fierce smote they him and fiercer, till he swooned,  
So wild the tumult round about him grew.

Then, roused, he heard a gradual, far-off stir  
Such as the tremulous wind in hush of night  
'Mid forest branches makes, or waves that moan  
With many-voic'd lips on pebbled strand.  
It was the murmur of the minion host  
Paying their orisons at Mica's throne.  
Upstarting he beheld a pageant weird  
Of flame-wrought pillars marshaled without end  
Down fearful lanes of fire where in and out  
Moved Mica's serfs to do his awful will.  
Naked they were, grim Æthiops, tricked in chains  
Of massy gold about their lusty waists,  
And jewels glistered bright around their necks  
Or gleamed on pendants wrought with cunning skill.  
As swift they glided through the glowing aisles  
They chanted incoherent strains of praise,  
Mumbling in muffled tones their mad acclaim.  
At head of all, throned Mica swayed the court,  
Circled with such candescent burst of light  
As dimmed all lesser flame; and at his nod  
Wound in and out the slaves in tide of toil.  
Two basilisks crouched, horrid, at his feet,  
Their tails a-quiver and their eyes a-fire,  
Ready to dartle death at sign or word.  
Such spectacle of awe met Shasta's sight  
As stately moved he on to Mica's throne.  
When the stern king of fire beheld his foe  
Advance thus singly down the halls of death  
With countenance serene and footing sure  
He eyed him in amaze, then, fearful, spake:  
"Proud prince of summer sun and woodland flowers,  
Impotent lord of light in realms of air,

What mad emprise has bent thy steps to me,  
What insolence is this, to penetrate  
These halls of flame unbidden to my throne?"  
Then Shasta spake, with mien majestical  
And accents calm: "I come to thy wild court  
To challenge thee, renown'd prince of flame.  
Thou knowest 'tis not thy sturdy heart and hand  
That renders thee invincible in strife;  
For in these chambers mewed thou hidest low  
To marshal thy tumultuous host of fire,  
Which in fierce rabble whelms our fields in woe  
And ravages our vales." Then dark the brow  
Of Mica grew and fierce his basilisks  
Heaved their scaled sides and shook their warning  
tails,

Whilest minions pressed about th' aroused throne.  
"Have care, O Shasta, how thou speakest here,  
We brook no flouting speech in halls of hell."  
"We ask but justice, mighty king of death,  
And as thou art a god thou can'st not spurn  
Our plea. We crave a brand of living fire  
That we may fight thee in more equal strife;  
Then shalt thou be accounted worthy foe."  
"Vain suppliant," answered Mica, wrath and scorn  
Contending in his subtle countenance,  
"Thou shalt have flame enough, we promise thee.  
To thy compeers ascend with gift from us  
Of swinging censer of unquench'd fire,  
And use it as thou mayest for weal or woe."  
So saying he clapt his hands with such uproar  
As thunder-peal across a boisterous sea.  
The pillared hall grew dim, and all the scene

Shuddered to nothingness in Shasta's sight.  
Again he stood upon the heights of snow  
With earth far flung in darkness at his feet  
And overhead the mighty shield of night  
Studded with myriad stars that splendid shone.  
Within his hand he held a censer rare  
Enwrought of gold and bossed with ornaments,  
Whence glimmed bright coals of fire that smoked and  
    flamed  
Alternate with the wind that breathed and died.  
"Eureka!" sang the god, as down he sped  
O'er dizzy crags and fissures deeply cleft  
'Twixt him and meadows slumbering at his feet.  
Such speed he made that ere dawn flushed the sky  
He had retraced the weary leagues of way  
Which intervened ere he might make proclaim  
To his leagued host of how his quest had fared  
At court of that remorseless king of fire.





## COLIAS AND GODETIA

*Being a myth of a golden butterfly and a summer flower*

A thrill of triumph stirred the vales of fear,  
When fires were flashed from peak to answ'ring peak,  
Charged with high hopes of victory in strife  
With mid-earth despot. Round each blazing pyre  
A chanting multitude of gods convened  
Like worshippers of flame about their shrine.  
While these enthused bands were fondly spelled  
In rapture round their fiery altars bright,  
Their new-found fetish wrought them havoc sore;  
For when most brightly lapped the tongues of flame  
Young Colias, Shasta's own beloved seed,  
Exulting, leaped upon the cruel flame  
Ere hand could stay his frenzy. Forth he rolled  
A ruin of his lovely childish grace,  
Deformed and scarred into a monstrous guise.  
In vain was grief, in vain fond loving words;  
He lived, but with the semblance of a brute,  
And one most fair 'sumed aspect most debased.  
No heart had the immortals then to range  
Their leaguers for the fight with such a fell  
And fiendish implement as this of fire,  
So none gainsaid King Mica's vandal might  
Or dared to trespass more on Tophet's deep.  
Young Colias grew to godhood, scarred and shunned,  
For the immortals feared unloveliness  
E'en as the flowers that shrink from frosty air.  
Still did the fire him hold in utter thrall  
Until in turn he ruled where late he slaved.

He washed the sands for gold and with his flame  
Fashioned the grains to shapes of curvèd grace;  
Hot metal did he beat to beauty rare,  
Tracing the forms of flow'rs on chalice bright  
Or bossing plates with leafy ornament.  
Such, then, his task, and with his toil he grew  
Gentle and loving in his loneliness,  
Gracious to all that lived and craved his care.  
The lame coyote, fearless, round him limped,  
The slender doe led up her dappled fawn  
For his caress, the mother thrush, her young.  
Frail flowers he tended when the wanton tread  
Of some wood-rover had their beauty spoiled.  
But higher yearned his heart than beast or flow'r;  
Thus sundered from his kind he needs must feel  
Love-stifled and forlorn. Could he but know  
The rapture of an answered sympathy,  
The thrill of god-communion, heart to heart!  
But when he reached his hand, beseeching, forth  
To some fair nymph amidst the leafy grove  
She shrank away as in a deadly fear  
And left him lingering there, despised and lorn.  
It seemed of all the world that he alone  
Was loveless, he who knew so well how dear  
A boon was love to tender soul of youth.

Amid a fertile vale anear the sea  
There did abide a nymph, surpassing fair,  
Who tenderly o'erwatched the woodland flow'rs,  
Moisting the earth about their dainty stems  
And op'ning tardy petals for the bee,  
Or spreading leafy tents against the sun  
When with too fierce a heat he smote the groves.

She was a paragon of beauty bright,  
Gold-tressed and rosy tinted, with an eye  
Made blue by looking fixedly at heav'n,  
And with a slender grace beyond compare.  
Full many a suitor had besought her love  
And many a proud heart had she humbled sore,  
For vainly had they pled, though bright their name  
And lofty their degree. It chanced that one  
Adorer proffered her in pledge of love  
A golden cup by Colias richly wrought,  
Patterned with tender tracery of flowers;  
Whereat she cried, "Could I but see the god  
Who fashioned such rare loveliness, meseems  
To him I'd give what others seek in vain."  
Then proud her suitor laughed a scornful laugh,  
"Despised of all the heavenly host he dwells,"  
Cried he, "a god deformed, abhorred and spurned."  
"Hath he done aught in malice or in shame?"  
Then 'quired Godetia fair. "'Tis not his deeds  
That shame the god, fair nymph," he uttered sooth,  
"For he is gentle past all reckoning,  
But verily misfortune so hath chanced  
That in his visage strange beyond belief  
Is he misfeatured."

"Would that I might know,"

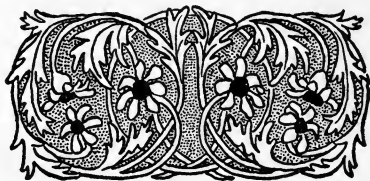
She made return, "a being so deformed  
But with an inner beauty so complete!"  
Then Aster, her proud suitor, thought to bend  
To his preferment her capricious whim  
And vowed he'd bring sad Colias to her bow'r,  
That she might gaze upon his ruined face;  
With this resolve forthwith to execute

He fled down the vale far past her ken.  
When on the morrow with his consort strange  
Came Aster to Godetia, she was deep  
In toil amidst her blooms and saw them not  
Until they stood expectant at her side —  
Proud Aster with the shy, ill-form'd one,  
Unhappy Colias, to receive her scorn.  
All flushed with lightsome toil she rose, a bright  
Enthralling child in an enchanted grove,  
A rosy goddess, radiant as the spring.  
She welcomed them with words of soft acclaim  
And smiled on that seared face of passion, turned  
In piteous appeal to her clear eye.  
Then all the pent love of past hopeless years  
Surged madly through the heart of Colias,  
And with due adoration kneeling low  
He paid fond rev'rence to Godetia's grace.  
But Aster looked disdainful on the twain  
For he had summoned Colias there to meet  
Averted eyes and scant civility,  
Trusting to thus augment his own high grace  
In sight of her he coveted for bride.  
With brief adieu he rustled down the vale  
Renouncing one who so complacently  
Her favors spent on all who sought her bow'r.  
When he had ta'en his way the nymph 'gan speak  
To Colias of his craft and graciously  
Did she extol the wonder of his skill,  
The art wherewith he twined her dearest flowers  
In ornament on stubborn metal wrought.  
They talked of beauteous things for many an hour,  
And when, reluctant, he departed slow,

'Twas with assurance of renewed delight.  
Thenceforth he oft in secret sought her dell,  
Trusting no more the garish light of day,  
But stealing, tiptoe down the lanes of eve  
To whisper secrets 'neath the trancēd stars.  
Emboldened then, he, trembling, did aver  
That could he taste one rapturous kiss of love  
He should be straight transfigured from his guise  
Of brute deformity to godly mien.  
She forthwith wound her arms about his neck  
Like some fond seraph who would glorify  
All things corruptible to godliness,  
And left imprint of love on his wan lips.  
Thus postured she did feel him swoon away,  
A shadow or a dream that haunts the night,  
A phantasy, a wraith receding dim  
To nothingness upon the silent air.  
"Colias!" she called, but heard no answ'ring voice  
Save that the hills beat back her silver cry.  
Then all night long she fled from height to height,  
Voicing her frenzy till the gods gave ear  
And pitied her but could not cure her bane.  
Fear haunted, on she sped and ever cried  
For Colias, but in vain. The starry night  
Had snatched him to its void, the azure deep  
Had buried him in its unfathomed realm.

One eve, as from a peak she sadly viewed  
The sun down rolling toward th' ensanguined sea,  
A figure all of gold came winging bright  
Out of the empyrean, swift and true,  
Shaping its course for her high pinnacle.

Down sloped the splendid form on pens of gold,  
Checking his flight as near her post he came,  
A cherub clothed in glorious majesty.  
At side of her he stood with flashing eye  
And proud arched lip that quivered as he said:  
"Thou knowest me not, Godetia!" when a cry  
Burst from her throat: "My Colias, thou hast come!"  
Then tenderly upgathered he his love  
And spread his pinions to the radiant sky,  
Forth launching toward the sun that splendid rolled  
Its flaming car beneath th' exultant wave.



## THE DESCENT OF BOREAS

*Wherein is narrated the contest of the host of spring with the ice  
of the glacial age*

When the bright host of gods Hesperian  
Despaired of coping with great Mica's storm,  
Nor longer hoped with might of flame to wring  
Submission from their arch antagonist,  
They counseled long for other means to quell  
The quenchless tumult in their golden realm.  
In solemn conference Atharpos spake  
Of new devices to o'ercome their foe.  
He, hoary bearded and sage countenanced,  
Was doomed to speak persuasive words of woe;  
For specious were his arguments and shrewd,  
Though false as serpent's tongue his winning tale,  
Fraught with dire consequence all unforeseen.  
"There is a god above all others strong,"  
He said, "who rules in frigid realms afar.  
He is hight Boreas and his scepter sways  
Remorseless over land and sea and air.  
Icy his countenance and hoar as death!  
His mantle sweeps in folds of driven snow,  
His hoarse voice mingles with the fearful blast  
That blusters big with storm on peaks afar;  
In his fell train a million vassals ride  
With keen cold spears of death to hurl with wrath  
From heights aerial on shrinking foe.  
Could we but gain his grace, our cause t' espouse  
And bid him speed to our dominions fair,  
Soon would he pen proud Mica in his tomb."

Thus spake Atharpos, and the host approved,  
So blinded in their zeal that none foresaw  
What dread results would follow his advent.  
For messenger young Trochilus the Red  
They chose to seek out Boreas in his lair.  
And fit their choice, for none more fleet than he  
To overpass the trackless wilderness!  
He was a pygmy god, but fair to see  
In ruddy vestments with a bronzed casque  
And gorget shining like a mimic sun.  
Alert and swift he speeded o'er the waste,  
Undaunted by the van that menaced him  
Of pallid snow-wraiths, chanting dirges wild  
About the haunts austere of Boreas.  
On, on he pressed, till at the gate he stood  
Of that hoar polar palace cold and grim;  
Within the walls wild voices raved and roared,  
The parl of blust'ring ice-gods turbulent,  
And stinging spears were hurled by hands unseen,  
And half-discovered forms went shudd'ring past.  
Nathless the messenger of gods advanced  
Answering the challenge at the icy gates  
And pressing to the presence of the king.  
A fearful master was the lord of snow,  
Of massive bulk and visage stern as death,  
All white and terrible, with eyes that shone  
As cold as stars above the wintry drifts.  
His voice made quake the glistening peaks with fear,  
Stifling all lesser tumult with its din  
As down the buttressed walls of ice it rolled.  
When Trochilus had made his eager plea,  
Dilating on the lovely vales despoiled,



The great god tossed his mighty head and roared :  
"Tell all thy impotent god host afar  
For Boreas to make way. We shall explore  
These gardens of rare wonder and shall ride  
Caparisoned for war ; and we shall build  
Vast tombs of ice to sepulcher thy foe.  
The rills shall stiffen and the rivers freeze,  
The earth be overlaid with robe of death,  
The air be choked with winged barbs of snow.  
Mica shall tremble in his mid-earth keep :  
But let all things that haunt the land beware,  
For they must perish or swift haste away."  
Then Trochilus, who erst had fearless been  
Grew all aquiver with unwelcome fright  
And swift forth dartled southward to apprise  
His bright companions of impending doom  
More fearful than the wrack by Mica wrought.  
Ah ! there was consternation when he came  
With missive ominous ; the Naiades  
Wept in their groves and solemn gods were bowed  
With voiceless weight of grief, for well they knew  
'Twere vain to strive 'gainst foe invincible.  
With heavy teen they bade their loved bow'rs  
A fond farewell and gathered on the heights  
In vain persuasion of unfounded fears.  
Upon the north peaks loomed a heavy cloud,  
Slow mantling the horizon with its mist.  
Chill grew the air and far-off strains were heard  
Of wild wind voices in inchoate calls  
As of an army waging strife afar.  
Then came the crash of mighty beasts in fear  
Swinging their pond'rous limbs down mountain vales.

The shagg'd mastodons with tusks outcurved  
Tramped with a thund'rous tread, their trunks in air,  
Bellowing as on they swept to 'scape the storm.  
Ten thousand panting birds, swift-winged, flashed by,  
Fleeting in panic south before the foe.  
The cloud advanced and maiden forms were seen  
Of snow-wraiths chanting runic strains of death,  
A multitude of spectres strange and wild.  
Then followed forms of spearmen girt in mail  
Of sheen'd silver, with bright, leveled spears  
That glistened from a dreary leaden pall.  
Far as sight followed stretched the multitude,  
Melting in distance to a pallid cloud  
With Boreas in their midst by wing'd steeds  
As white as snow swept on in icy car.  
While fearful gazed the sad-eyed company  
Of gentle gods, they saw in this mad rout  
The spoilers of their dwelling-place endeared,  
And swift as foam on-driven before the storm  
They sped afar to tropic vales untrod.  
Only Lycentra with her children twain  
Joined not the fugitives, for her dear charge  
Encumbered her so sore that in despair  
She turned and fronted the on-surging line,  
Holding in piteous appeal her babes  
In fondly clinging arms. As well might stand  
A wounded tern upon the ocean beach  
And cry against the tidal wave's advance,  
Or dainty flow'r upon the summer hill  
Plead with the flames that charge in columns bright.  
The snow-wraiths wailed a dirge, the host advanced  
With such a diapason of deep woe

That all her cries were lost in the vast roar,  
And with her darlings down she sank in death.  
Swift rode the van of ice-gods turbulent,  
But slow as doom the frigid rear advanced,  
Crashing the forests in its awful path,  
And sealing as in tombs etern the earth,  
Till not a pulse stirred in the vale of doom.  
It were a tale of passing length to tell  
How Boreas swayed in wantonness these vales,  
Lording it with a despot might that wrought  
Ruin of beauty and despair of joy  
In all the gladless realms he had o'er-passed  
And blasted with his icy armaments.  
Meanwhile, not idle were the exiled gods  
So cruelly bereft of haunts endeared;  
They, leaguered with the sun host and the spring,  
Made mighty preparations for the fray,  
Enduing armor bright and weaponing  
Their multitude with golden shafts of sun.  
There never was, I ween, more thrilling sight  
Than when these armies 'rayed themselves for war  
And ominous led on their endless hosts.  
To northward on the heights had Boreas  
Made stand with mighty banners white of snow,  
Crowded about with arms that swayed and glanced  
In countless millions, with intrepid van  
Down streaming over valleys in defiles  
Of bristling icy spears that fearful shone,  
While all about in dance of death there gleamed  
The myriad snow-wraiths chanting weird refrains.  
Th' advancing host swept up the southern pass  
With Calochortus leading the bright band.

There was a vast array all panoplied  
In golden mail with shields like suns that shone  
And weapons glinting brightly on their foes.  
About them pressed the host of spring with flowers  
To scatter in their path and garlands bright  
Were tossed in air to wave above the fray.  
The maidens sang of triumph, joy and life,  
The glory of the spring was in their strain,  
And blithe bird-voices swelled the choir of song,  
Vocal with love, with hope melodious.  
When on they came there was a hush'd spell  
As if no voice dared violate the trance  
Of strife impending; then an uproar wild  
Swelling into a wind-tossed wail of doom  
Proclaimed the swift advance of icen hosts.  
The Naiads shuddered at the tumultuous moan,  
And bright gods leveled weapons at the foe.  
There was a clash of arms, a stifled cry  
As when a million waves all hush their moan,  
And slowly pressed the gods their northward way.  
The snow-wraiths wailed as far away they winged,  
While sullen smote the arm'd host of ice  
Driven by that bright band invincible.  
It was a triumph won with toil supreme,  
And still the ice-gods threatened them afar  
Massed on the heights where, waiting to descend,  
Their white ranks glistened like grim ghosts of doom.  
Scarcely had Calochortus ta'en his stand  
Implanting o'er the vales his banners bright  
Of golden stars on fields the verdantest,  
When down the hills onsurged the pallid throng  
In dreary multitudes that shrilled despair

To gods of flowerful vales retenanted.  
They fell before the onslaught and again  
Left fields and blooms a spoil of icy rout,  
And earth was paved with pale snow-flow'rs of death.  
Thus in successive victory they waged  
The mighty contest for supremacy,  
The gods of life slow gaining, fight by fight,  
The gods of death reluctant yielding sway,  
Until the valleys were reclaim'd quite,  
And all the heights save those lone peaks afar  
Where solitary camped in scattered bands  
The thwarted remnants of the haughty host.

From all these travails of the world of air  
Had Mica shrunk to gloomy caverns deep  
Whence seldom now outflowed his molten streams,  
And rarely did he shake the earth in wrath.  
So dwelt in joy the bless'd gods of day  
For many a blissful æon undisturbed,  
Treasuring all beauty in their radiant bowers.



## AVILA AND STURNELLUS

*A myth of the meadow-lark's song at dawn.*

Avila, bright Avila, in the band  
Of bless'd hours none other beams so fair  
As thou, O radiant morning-star of heav'n,  
With joys imprint upon thy countenance,  
Queen of the dawn and darling of the day.  
As night o'er-wings thou risest, poisoning bright  
On fleckless peak of snow, thy golden hair  
Streaming before the wind in shimmering strands;  
Thy wreath'd smiling face with greeting blithe  
Like rose half-oped beams fondly on the day.  
What chorus heralds thee from comely birds  
Piping about thy feet their mellow songs!  
First rolls the thrush his high ascending strain,  
The little gold-finch warbles from the brier,  
The linnet carols on exultant wing,  
And all in praise of their dear mates and thee,  
Avila, most endeared of all the hours.  
At sight of thee the poppies lift their heads,  
The morning-glories' dainty cups uncurl,  
And earth is pranked in fresh array of bloom,  
All scintillant with jeweled diadems  
Brighter than diamonds and more frail than flow'rs.

Among the meadow-gods was one who teased  
Wild strains of beauty out of pierc'd reeds,  
Blowing with ardent soul his rapture forth  
And panting such sweet melodies serene  
As thrilled all hearers with its haunting pow'r.  
Sturnellus was his name—the god of song,

And he was vested with a gold attire,  
With jetty cirque about his glist'ning breast,  
And russet cloak against the morning dew.  
When he beheld Avila he was thrilled  
By her rare loveliness, and played a strain  
So wildering in beauty, so divine,  
That his tranced list'ner fain would dally there  
To sate her longing for the baffling joy;  
But she was urg'd on by restive hours  
And winged, uncloyed, to her empyreal home.  
Next morn Sturnellus waited at her throne  
To pipe anew his reedy pastoral,  
And freshly was she stirred to am'rous thoughts.  
Thus more enamored morn by morn she grew,  
And more elated rose th' impassioned strains  
Until she could not rouse herself to flee,  
Though hours importuned and indignant time  
Frowned on the fair delinquent dallying there.  
Day was arrested while the minstrel sang  
And all the gods bent ear in ecstasy.  
Then Fate, unheeding plaints of passioned love  
From her far covert glanced with boding frown.  
She saw the tranced hour absorbed with love,  
Spelled by sweet song from duty's path severe;  
She saw the tempter with melodi'us reed  
And all th' attendant host of list'ning gods.  
Then spake she while each heart grew faint with fear:  
*"Tempted and temptor, hear the voice of Fate!  
Begone, Avila, unto heav'n's bright gate,  
And thou, Sturnellus, 'sume thy proper state."*  
A crash of thunder and a flare of fire  
Roused the still host, and as they looked above

Avila shone from heav'n, a quivering star,  
And o'er the mead Sturnellus winged, a lark,  
His song still trembling toward his love in heav'n.





## THE WAR OF THE TITANS

*A myth of the seashore, describing the struggles of the rocks, trees,  
and living creatures with King Tempest*

Æons ago the great Sea Mother throve,  
A solitary Titan, vast and lone,  
A passionate, majestic creature, vast,  
Companioned only by th' refulgent stars,  
The dreamy votress in the vast of night,  
And that celestial master of the day.  
She teemed with all the wonders of the world,  
She harbored near her heart all gifts of heav'n,  
She treasured in her breast the life to be.  
The great Lord Mica, ruler leagues below,  
Had sought her in her splendid solitude,  
And of their love was born a line of sons, —  
A Titan race, upon their mother's breast  
Reared fondly, as became their high estate, —  
The vasty offspring of the fire and sea.  
Of these were none more strong than Porphery  
And Titan Granite and Pyrites bright —  
Three lusty sons to do their destined task.  
Like peaks they stood upon their mother's strand,  
And heard her proud peals breaking on the day,  
Or caught at night her murmur at their feet,  
While round about the stars bent down to hear.  
A joyous family they lingered there,  
Shielding with fond solicitude the life  
That sought their ample harborage from storm.  
About their feet the kelp streamed to and fro  
As if it were their mother's waving hair;

The spined Echini clung to them unfeared,  
The bright Asteriids basked in dim retreat,  
The fringed Medusæ waved their filaments,  
The Limpets pressed their lips against the stones,  
And all was joy upon the wide seashore!

Such sweet repose could not forever bide,  
Since one there was most keen to bring them woe —  
A boist'rous tyrant, jealous aye of peace,  
And ready to rebuke content with scorn.  
King Tempest was this monarch turbulent —  
A wild storm-king with sea-weed madly crowned,  
Mantled in dun clouds, mailed in glist'ning brine,  
Sceptred with wind, and throned upon the tide.  
He saw the happy habitants of shore  
And smote them with his potent arm of mail;  
For was he not the deadly foe of peace,  
The ardent hater of all placid things?  
But even he, grim king of stress and storm,  
Could simulate at times a placid mien,  
Playing the wooer in his soft disguise.

It chanced that Titan Granite took for bride  
A sad, dark nymph, Cupressa, fair to see —  
A pensive goddess, seldom roused from grief,  
Who so entranced the storm-god that he sighed  
Soft music in her ear, and sought to gain  
A smile in greeting when he neared her strand.  
Howbeit, she scorned the gruff king's fond caress,  
So constant was she to her chosen lord,  
And grew more cold the more his suit he urged.  
He thereon in his burst of angerness  
Made vow to bear Cupressa to his court,

But firmly did she wind her loving arms  
About her master's breast, while vainly toiled  
King Tempest to unclasp her. Fierce his voice  
Swept round her, while her tresses, dark, were blown  
Upon the night. She sobbed and cried in fear  
As fast she clung to her unflinching lord  
Who stood defiant through the rudest shock.  
O who can thwart King Tempest, roused in might,  
When his white quivering hand in wrath is raised,  
When his loud thunder bursts upon the shore?  
Not e'en the Titans can his ravage stay,  
For he is lord of all the realm of air,  
Commanding arm'd legions unto death.

While this fierce war was waging on the strand  
Came one, a fairy god forth from the sea,—  
Fair Larus, offspring of King Tempest wild,  
Mothered of that frail Nereid, Flying Foam.  
All candid was his vesture; pearly gray  
His mantle fell, and mighty ebon wings  
Urged him in glorious circles through the blue.  
He little loved his mighty tyrant sire,  
For Liberty controlled his spirit high  
And Freedom claimed him for her neophyte.  
Therefore King Tempest strove his seed to crush,  
Unwilling one of lineage so proud  
Should spread such heresies to gods afar.  
He sought fair Larus in mid-ocean haunts,  
But lo! the Mother Foam her child had warned,  
And he was winging toward the port of peace!

King Tempest followed, threat'ning as he sped,  
With hoarse voice howling o'er the turbid sea,

With ministering waves and brow of night  
Threat'ning the concourse of sea-roving gods.  
Three spirits tended him, fierce formed and strange,  
Three monsters lashing through the brine for prey—  
Rhina, a demon-goddess, scaled and grim,  
A savage denizen of darksome deeps,  
And Galeus, her mate of loathsome form,  
From whom all timid sea-things shrank in fear,  
And huge Heptanchus, fellest shape of death!  
In silence glistened they upon the gloom  
With savage visages and glassy eyes  
And fierce teeth gnashing in their cruel heads.  
Then all King Tempest's trumpeters swept past,  
Blowing wild harmonies upon the air  
To speed their royal master on his course.

What fear impelled the pitiful godson,  
Frail Larus, as he winged his panting way  
Before such press of foe! what thought of death,  
What anguish, nerved his wings to tenser strain!  
He sought the shelter of the Titans' strand,  
Where bright Pyrites welcomed him with cheer,  
And Porphery reached out enfolding arms.  
Thus thwarted was the sire, the king of storm,  
Who, doubly angered, turned upon the band  
Of sturdy Titans towering on the shore:  
"There shall be reckoning for this," he cried;  
"Proud heads shall fall and haughty spirits fail,  
Aye, though the years grow weary of our strife,  
It shall not end nor rest 'twixt thee and me!"  
"Ah Tempest King," made answer Porphery,  
"Against thy wrath we stand serene and sure,  
With all frail creatures treasured close from harm."

The wrathy tyrant turned and sought the deep,  
His hosts to muster and his shame to heal,  
The while frail Larus rested there in peace.

It was a joyous spell, from danger freed,  
With beauty round about, — the singing sea  
And, on the sun-swept strand, her children fair  
Breathing soft melodies through conchs out-rolled,  
Or dancing on the iridescent shore.  
The heart of Larus stirred with love's soft thrill  
And of the Nereids he chose for bride  
The dreamy Abalona, gentlest maid  
Of all the daughters of the glist'ning sand.  
She was so chastely robed that one might well  
Have passed her by unnoted, but within  
Her breast there throbbed a heart of lucent pearl.  
Steadfast was she, and full of loving ways,  
Companion meet for Larus, bright and free.  
They held sweet converse of the realms of air,  
Of liberty on pinions tried and bold;  
They heard the soft sea-voices babbling near,  
They listened to the tones of singing sands,  
And reveled in the beauty and the peace.

Then Larus in his arms upbore his bride,  
Venturing upon the parlous stretch of sea  
To prove his mastery of dizzy heights.  
King Tempest spied his son with this fair freight  
And made attack with such a sudden might  
That Abalona from his grasp was torn  
And hurled to ruin down the steep of sky.  
Ah weep, god Larus, for thy lost belov'd,  
By Tempest King so rudely cast to doom,

Ah weep, god Larus, since thy love no more  
May cheer thee when thou seekest peace from strife,  
No more may greet thee by the singing tide!  
There was a solemn funeral by night,  
The while the great Sea Mother wept for grief  
And multitudes of maidens vainly mourned.  
Then Larus laid away the lovèd form  
And o'er the trackless darkness wandered lone.

Unsated still the King of Tempests raged,  
With fury trebly on the Titans turned  
Through many a cycle of consuming strife.  
A glorious stand they made against his might,  
Stubborned through æons of adversity,  
Battling to hold their post against the foe.  
With all their offspring ranged they on the shore,  
Steadfast beneath the fiercest shock of storm;  
But one by one they fell in valiant fight,  
Prostrate and nerveless on the moaning strand.  
The great Sea Mother then outreached her arms  
To fold them fondly to her awful breast  
Where they might brood in peace upon their woe.  
Even Pyrites in his glist'ning mail,  
And Porphery, the dauntless, fighting fell,  
Leaving old Titan Granite hoar and lone  
To battle for Cupressa, and to share  
All burdens of the haunters of the shore,  
All sorrows of the sea, all stress of storm.

## THE MIST MAIDENS

*In which is recounted the bringing of the rain from the sea*

Deep in the haunted sea a Neriad host  
Sported in vasty halls of splendid state,  
Bannered with purple and enpaved with pearl,  
Dim lighted with wan, wavering globes of fire,—  
A mystic region of enchanting calm.  
Dolphins with azure fins and milk-white breasts  
About them glanced, and king-fish, scaled with hues  
Of opal or of sun-bow, lashed the deep.  
It was a wonder world so strange and still  
That gods grew fearful when they trod its halls  
And viewed its tapestries so richly wrought,  
Its swaying phosphor lamps, its multitude  
Of voiceless creatures stealing through the gloom,  
Its caverns dark where scarce a glim of day  
Reached down to warm the torpid things that clung  
In cold recesses 'mid unending night.  
There were enchanted forests never stirred  
By roving winds, but in the pulsing sea  
Slow waving their high tops that sought the light  
In streaming amber ribbons, ribbed and curled.  
Through these unearthly halls and groves roved free  
In wanton joy the bright mist maiden band,—  
The radiant offspring of th' eternal deep.  
All peerless were they in their dim retreat,  
With shimmering tresses and with bodies pale,  
Mantled in pearls and zoned with coral bands,  
And garlanded with sea-weed streaming free.

Sometimes they left the caves of ocean deep  
To frolic in the boist'rous wave-tossed tide,  
Chasing the Nereids 'mid flying foam  
Or reveling in mist of storm-churned sea.

When from bright heav'n the Children of the Sun  
Beheld this witching pageant of the spray,  
They swept to ocean in exultant flight.  
Their bucklers and their spears glanced bright with gold  
And glitt'ring were their fair accouterments,  
Their beamy locks and eyes all scintillant.  
Amid the foam each seized a nymph at play  
And fled high into heav'n with beauteous prize  
Where ships of cloud were drifting idly by.  
In these fair galleons of gold they sailed  
Upon the azure deep, down streams of air  
Where ne'er a ripple left their vessels' prows;  
With royal sails out-hung they swiftly sped;  
Toward land they voyaged, a godly company  
Chanting glad pæans upon the starry night.  
Above the sea, above the hills they passed,  
O'er valleys wide they ranged and on the heights,  
Snow-paved, they moored at eve their radiant fleet,  
When forth the glad Mist Maidens leaped with song,  
Pattering to earth with silver-sandaled feet.  
Then was there joy amidst despairing flow'rs,  
For these sea-spirits loved all tender things,  
And with soft kisses did they give them cheer,  
Wooing them from chill tombs to joy and light.  
On woodland slopes and plains from heights to sea  
Was such a hymeneal festival  
As might have spelled old gods with wonderment



And gladdened back to youth time-weary things.  
The lust'rous progeny of peerless Sun  
Had ta'en the fairest daughters of the sea,  
And for their spousal robed the earth in bloom.  
I dare not say what wealth of laughing flow'rs  
Danced as the breezes rippled up the hills—  
What joyous bands of beauteous dryades  
Gossamered in white and blue tossed heads in air,  
What golden creatures swayed across the plains,  
What Naiads tricked in pink and violet  
Frisked in the greenery, or wantoned gay  
Upon the marge of some wild chanting stream.  
It was a nympholeptic fete of flow'rs,  
A carnival of blossoms without peer,  
A rhapsody of bloom the gods to spell.  
Full joyous were the days with beauty bright,  
Until forth sped the daughters of the sea,  
Leaping adown mad cataracts at night  
And gliding on in silver streams at noon.  
They sought their own loved elemental deep;  
For still the sea-mist filmed their sparkling eyes,  
And caves of coral lured them to their home.  
When they were vanished from all sylvan bowers  
The Scions of the Sun with wrath were keen  
And cruelly did they bestrew the flowers  
Which late had decked the land in bridal wreaths.  
Their spears flashed death amidst the shrinking host,  
The green blades wilted and the blossoms sear  
Lapsed back into their tombs of crumbling clay,  
Since their loved Maidens of the Mist had fled.  
Then marshaled the Sun Gods a Titan host  
To stand as warders of their brides, to be

Reclaim'd from the waves glad to their groves.  
A mighty concourse stood they on the hills :  
The host Sequoia, stately and sublime.  
All robed in green they reared their vasty heads  
Towering amid the fleeting cloud-host's van  
With whom they held unceasing converse high.  
Then fared the Sun Gods forth upon the sea  
And filched anew the Mist Maids for their groves,  
Placing them tenderly where they might find  
All earthly bliss but never 'scape the care  
Of those high guardians in mantles green.  
Again joy thrilled the heights, again the plains  
Were broidered with bright tracery of flow'rs ;  
The hills were diademed with poppies gold,  
With castilleias rathe and columbine ;  
The meadows shone with buttercups, the vales  
Were splendid deck'd in lilies chaste as snow,  
With dog-toothed violets and bronz'd bells  
And fleurs-de-lis that proudly curled their lips.  
Ah, might that gladsome time have been but spelled  
Into an everlasting season of delight,  
With meadows haunted by the host of heav'n,  
And hymning seraphim on azure hills !  
Alas, the Maidens of the Mist 'gain pine  
For ocean grottoes with their mystic gloom,  
For dolphins and rare convoluted shells,  
Pearl tinted and frail formed, for all the dear  
Remembered blisses lingering in the deep.  
They moaned adown the streams and sobbed and cried  
Where stood the multitude o'erwatching them,  
And made appeal so piteous and lorn  
As to bestir compassion in their lords.

The Sun Gods freed their loves with solemn pledge  
That when the season had made half its round  
They would return and with redoubled cheer  
Call back with silver songs the birds and flow'rs,  
Summoning all creatures to their holiday.  
Thus in alternate round of shore and sea  
The Maidens of the Mist have yearly ranged,  
But still the sea holds leash upon their hearts  
And eagerly they leap to meet its foam,  
Save when the vast Sequoias and the race  
Of woodland Titans—Spruce and Fir and Pine  
Restrain full tenderly their hasting feet  
And bid them tarry to make glad the flow'rs.

Evanished are those days of godly things  
When on Hesperian shores, in fealty  
To beauty, footed free the host of heav'n.  
Their tenuous forms, like dreamland ghosts have flown,  
To find new haunts on singing spheres afar.  
But in our vales love tokens still abide  
Of their blessed presence—birds and trees and flow'rs  
To body forth their beauty still on earth.  
O ye, to whom all things of life are dear  
Who treasure the sweet carolings of birds,  
The modest faces of spring posies bright,  
The vein'd sheen of insects' vibrant wings,  
The splash of fountains and the flow of streams,  
With silvern fish amidst their quiet pools,—  
Forget not that the mountain Titans still  
Stand sentinel, transmuted to fair trees  
That weave their branch'd arms above the springs  
To treasure all their wealth of liquor sweet,—

Forget not that the passing of the groves  
Means death to flow'rs and all of life most fair,  
Means ravishment of earth and ruin wide,  
Whereat the tender gods will weep afar  
And cry out: "Stay, O vandals, stay thy greed  
That beauty may not leave thee in despair."



## ADDRESS TO THE GOD OF LIGHT

King of all bright and joyous gods of air  
And peerless master of the spheres of light,  
O glorious ruler in thy pael blue  
Shining with thy own splendor through the void,  
A multitude of spirits voice thy praise!  
Thou hast engirdled earth with zone of cloud,  
The waters thou hast scattered o'er the hills,  
Thou hast ordained the winds, thy ministrants,  
And summoned jocund birds to grace thy bow'rs.  
At touch of thy bright wand the buds unfurl,  
The waves all sparkle at thy joyous glance;  
The world obeys thy mandate from afar.  
The singing spheres in loud accord to thee  
Address their harmonies, and all the throng  
Of orb'd followers, in mighty strains  
Augment thy majesty. Fair Earth is thine,  
With her pale lesser child, and all the day  
Thou castest benediction on her head!  
Thy will is perfect law, thy word is light,  
And thy sweet influence unites the world.  
Life, at thy bidding, leaps from formless stone;  
The gods of sea and land, of cloud and shore  
All own thy sovereignty, majestic king!  
Thou makest cold things warm with ardent touch,  
Thou castest sorrow to the winds of night,  
Thou fillest earth and heav'n with joy and love!









